TEACHER’S NOTES

What’s Your English? – Lesson Plan 2

Overview: Suggestions for using the rap What’s Your English? by Baba Brinkman and Professor Elemental

Total time for worksheet activities: 45 minutes + discussion

Suggested level: Upper intermediate to advanced

1. For each student, make a copy of the Worksheet and the rap Transcript and Glossary.

2. Ask the students if they know the meaning of the word rap. Ask them how they feel about rap music in general and if they listen to it. Ask them if they know any rap artists?

Rap is a way of talking using rhythm and rhyme, usually over a strong musical beat. This rap was written and performed by two rap artists: Baba Brinkman and Professor Elemental. You can find out more about them on these websites:
www.bababrinkman.com
www.professorelemental.com

3. Tell students they are going to listen to a rap and watch a video. Give out copies of the Worksheet.

4. Play the video clip and ask students to answer the questions in exercise 1. Conduct feedback as a whole class.

5. Ask students to complete the vocabulary questions in exercise 2. Play the video clip so students can check their answers. You may have to play this part of the video more than once.

6. Put students into pairs and ask them to discuss the questions in exercise 3. Provide a couple of examples before students begin the task.

7. Play the complete video clip of Baba Brinkman and Professor Elemental’s rap battle.
KEY

What’s Your English? – Lesson Plan 2

1 Find the information

The British man (Professor Elemental) is wearing a hat and holding a pipe. The North American man (Baba Brinkman) is wearing a checked shirt.

2 Vocabulary

1 British English / North American English
   spanner / wrench
   football / soccer
   autumn / fall
   rubbish / garbage
   lift / elevator
   petrol / gas
   crisp / potato chip

2 Students’ own answers.

a–d Students’ own answers.

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The poem What’s Your English? © Baba Brinkman and Professor Elemental
WORKSHEET

What’s Your English? – Lesson Plan 2

1 Find the information

Watch the rap battle video What’s Your English? Who do you think is British and who is Canadian? Why are they arguing?

2 Vocabulary

1 Complete the words in the table below to show the differences between British English and North American English.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British English</th>
<th>North American English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>s _ _ _ _ _</td>
<td>wrench</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>football</td>
<td>s _ _ _ _</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a _ _ _ _ _</td>
<td>fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rubbish</td>
<td>g _ _ _ _ _</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l _ _</td>
<td>elevator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>petrol</td>
<td>g _ _</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c _ _ _ _</td>
<td>potato chip</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Watch the video clip again and check your answers.

3 Complete the expressions using the words from the box. Then match the phrases in the left-hand column with their meaning in the right-hand column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>barney</th>
<th>blimey</th>
<th>chuffed</th>
<th>cricket</th>
<th>hangin’</th>
<th>hokey</th>
<th>pear</th>
<th>pies</th>
<th>shizzle</th>
<th>whistling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. How’s it ________________?</td>
<td>a. serious about something</td>
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<td>2. not ________________</td>
<td>b. for sure / absolutely</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. not ________________ dixie</td>
<td>c. surprised / shocked</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. ________________ o’reilly</td>
<td>d. it’s gone horribly wrong</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. having a ________________</td>
<td>e. lies</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. ________________</td>
<td>f. How are you?</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Fo ________________</td>
<td>g. very pleased</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8. This has all gone ________________ -shaped</td>
<td>h. wrong or unfair</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. porky ________________</td>
<td>i. false or corny</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. ________________ to bits</td>
<td>j. fighting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Decide whether the expressions in the left-hand column are British or North American English. Write BE or NAE next to each phrase.

3 Discussion

Discuss these questions in pairs.

a When was the last time …
   someone told you porky pies?
   you had a barney?
   something went pear-shaped?
   you were chuffed to bits?

b Do you think all English-speaking countries should aim to use the Queen’s English? Why / Why not?

c Is your teacher’s nationality important to you? Why / Why not?

d Do you agree that English is ‘the world’s preferred language’? Do you think this will be the case in the future?
What's Your English?

Baba: Hey, Professor!
Professor: Oh, hello.
Baba: Wassup!
Professor: Yes.
Baba: Professor Elemental, how’s it hangin’?
Professor: Oh, god …
Baba: What, what?
Professor: Oh, what a ¹ _______ to give our language to the colonies.
Baba: What are you saying?
Professor: You’re not using it ² _______!
It’s simply not cricket, your slang is unclear!
The R is intrusive, you have no ideal
Baba: Now ³ _______ here, you old badgering bristling Britsy
We’re linguistically evolving, we’re not whistling dixie!
Over-protective parenting is risky …
Professor: You’re our clear descendants!
Baba: Well, you overtaxed your syntax, so we ⁴ _______ independence!
Professor: Independence? From what we invented? How senseless!
Each sentence is already perfect
Baba: So you’ll ⁵ _______ it?
Professor: Preserve it – the Queen’s English founded your nation
Just accept your received pronunciation
Baba: Your pronunciation just counts as vacant! With an ounce
Of ⁶ _______ you’d reckonize the future sound of your language
I’m here to throw a wrench in your engine once and for all
Professor: You mean a spanner?
Baba: No, a wrench, and not a football, a soccer ball!
Professor: It’s ⁷ _______, so you fall, I’m off to the public
House and it’s bin day, you get left like rubbish
Out … like yesterday’s fish and chip wrappers
Rapscallions ought not to ⁸ _______ gifted rappers
Baba: Arrgh, don’t say ‘rubbish,’ say ‘garbage’ as in “garbage rapper”
Your verbal conservatism died with Margaret Thatcher
Professor: She’s still alive!
Baba: Whatever, I use elevators for ⁹ _______
But you need a lift 'cause you’re out of gas at a petrol station

Professor: You’ve _______ of gas to go with that hot air lance flow

   Not ‘tomayto,’ it’s ‘tomarto’ –

   Why?

Baba: _______

Professor: – because I ______ so!

Baba: Great, so this is a linguistic dictatorship?

Professor: ‘Fraid so

Baba: What, so I have to say “crisp” for potato chip?

Professor: Yes, or we’ll _______

Baba: Alright, Mr. Tough Guy

   I’ll ______ you how Canucks fight

Professor: On ice?

Baba: Naw, we cuss nice

   Like this: “Dude, your rhymes are brutal”

You’re barmy

Professor: Blimey O’Reilly

   You’re cougar-bait

Professor: Well, if we’re having a barney

   Your rhymes are bare-faced lies

Baba: You’re hokey

Professor: Well, you can go whistle

Baba: Fo shizzle, your ______ is all fat with no gristle

Professor: This has all gone pear-shaped

Baba: Your rhymes are bare-faced lies

Professor: Well, yours are fairy ______, no, more like porky pies!

Baba: Well, here’s the point, porcupine, at the end of the day

   English ______ the globe, and change is the price you pay

Professor: I say, that’s not a bad trade

Baba: Yeah, Canadian slang is

   Like a tax that buys you …

Professor: The world’s ______ language!

   Exactly!

Baba: That’s wonderful!

Baba: Yeah

Professor: That’s great. Thank you very much

Baba: I thought you’d like that, yeah

Professor: Chuffed to bits, I really am
### Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>colony</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>a country that is controlled by another country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intrusive</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>present and noticeable in a way that is annoying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>descendant</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>a relative of a person who lived in the past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>syntax</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>the rules about how words are arranged and connected to make phrases and sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>senseless</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>happening or done for no purpose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>received pronunciation (RP)</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>a way of speaking British English that is considered to be the standard pronunciation in the UK completely and finally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>once and for all</td>
<td>phrase</td>
<td>a tendency to dislike change; a political belief that it is better for society to change only gradually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conservatism</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>if people trade blows or insults, they hit or insult each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trade blows/insults</td>
<td>phrase</td>
<td>crazy or silly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barmy</td>
<td>adjective (British)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>